

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A combination comprising:
a ~~permeable~~ facemask having a periphery adapted to abut a user 's face; and a compressible gasket formed of a ~~permeable~~ breathable filtering material on said periphery of said facemask adapted to provide an air path there through and to sit between said periphery of said facemask and a face of a user thereby filling any space that may exist there between: said ~~permeable~~ facemask having an area for filtering air which is interior to said periphery and not covered by said gasket.
2. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 1 wherein said compressible gasket includes an active agent incorporated therein.
3. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 1 wherein said compressible gasket comprises a porous dielectric carrier.
4. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 3 wherein said porous dielectric carrier is a non-woven material.
5. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 3 wherein said porous dielectric carrier is a fiber based material having a fibrous three dimensional matrix structure.
6. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 3 wherein said porous dielectric carrier is a sponge like material have an open cell matrix structure.

7. (Previously Presented) The combination as in claim 2 wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of metals and chemical compounds.

8. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 2 wherein said active agent is an iodinated resin.

9. (Currently amended) A combination comprising:

a ~~permeable~~ facemask having a periphery adapted to abut a user's face; and
a compressible gasket formed of a ~~permeable~~ breathable filtering material having an active agent incorporated therein on said periphery of said facemask adapted to provide an air path there through and to sit between said periphery of said facemask and a face of a user thereby filling any space that may exist there between; said ~~permeable~~ facemask having an area for filtering air which is interior to said periphery and not covered by said gasket; wherein said compressible gasket includes an electrostatic charge there across.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 9 wherein said compressible gasket comprises a porous dielectric carrier.

12. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 11 wherein said porous dielectric carrier is a non-woven material.

13. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 11 wherein said porous dielectric carrier is a fiber based material having a fibrous matrix structure.

14. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 11 wherein said porous dielectric carrier is a sponge like material have an open cell matrix structure.

Amendment and Response

U.S. Serial No. 10/528,006

Page 6

15. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 9 wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of metals and chemical compounds.

16. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 9 wherein said active agent is an iodinated resin.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 5 wherein said fiber matrix structure is configured to entrap the active agent in said three dimensional matrix structure.

19. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 5 wherein the active agent is intermeshed with the fiber based material.

20. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 4 wherein said nonwoven material comprises a polymer fiber selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyethylene and polypropylene.

21. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 2 wherein said active agent is a biostatic and/or biocidal material.

22. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 2 wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, halogenated resin, and activated carbon.

23. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 2 wherein the active agent is a metal, said metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, barium, boron, calcium, chromium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, lead, potassium, silicon, sodium, strontium and zinc.

24. (Previously presented) The combination as in claim 2, wherein the active agent is a chemical compound selected from the group consisting of N-methyl piperazine, potassium hydroxide, zinc chloride, calcium chloride and a mixture of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate.

25. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 18 wherein the fiber based material includes an electrostatic charge there across, said electrostatic charge capable of generating a potential across the surface of said fiber based material.

26. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 25 wherein the electrostatic charge is single or multi-layered.

27. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 26 wherein the electrostatic charge is about 25 Kv.

28. (New) A combination comprising:

a facemask having a periphery adapted to abut a user's face; and
a compressible gasket formed of a breathable filtering material having an active agent incorporated therein on said periphery of said facemask adapted to provide an air path there through and to sit between said periphery of said facemask and a face of a user thereby filling any space that may exist there between; said facemask having an area for filtering air which is interior to said periphery and not covered by said gasket.

29. (New) A combination comprising:

a facemask having a periphery adapted to abut a user's face; and
a compressible gasket formed of a breathable filtering material on said periphery of said facemask adapted to provide an air path there through and to sit between said periphery of said facemask and a face of a user thereby filling any space that may exist there between; said facemask having an area for filtering air which is interior to said periphery and not covered by said gasket; wherein said compressible gasket includes an electrostatic charge there across.